



# Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver  
Lt. Governor Patty Judge  
Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

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## 2010 Iowa Legislative Actions Supporting Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

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### **RIO focused on three legislative proposals for 2010:**

- Establish a permanent case management system ([HF2422](#) signed 3/22/10)
- Establish Smart Planning ([SF2389](#) signed 4/26/10) (planning-related sections [excerpted here](#))
- Watershed/Floodplain Management ([HF2459](#) signed 4/7/10 and [HF2531](#) signed 4/29/10)

### **All 12 RIAC Recommendations Received Legislative Consideration in 2010:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

***Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding***

- [HF2422](#) helps make individual case management system implemented after 2008 disasters permanently available for future disaster victims. (Signed 3/22/10)
- [HF2294](#) utilizes local long-term recovery committees established via case management system to administer a voucher program to distribute individual assistance funds in smaller disasters. (Signed 3/22/10)

#### **RECOMMENDATION 2**

***State and local governments should prioritize availability and affordability of adequate, affordable housing***

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains a provision authorizing Iowa Finance Authority to utilize Housing Trust Fund monies to support the Iowa Mortgage Help Initiative. (Signed 4/29/10)

### **RECOMMENDATION 3**

***The state should provide incentives for Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.***

- [HF2422](#) establishes a Business Disaster Recovery Task Force to outline recommendations for business disaster recovery. (Signed 3/22/10)
- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$20K for the development of a business assistance internet site by IDED and \$5M for the development and funding of a small business loan program – Save our Small Businesses Fund. (Signed 4/26/10)

### **RECOMMENDATION 4**

***The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction \$72.2 million in one-time disaster funding appropriated for infrastructure:***

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains \$4.5 million for Linn County's administrative building and \$2.1 million for the federal courthouse in Cedar Rapids. (Signed 4/29/10)
- [HF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) contains IJOBS funding for projects in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Des Moines, Polk County, Mason City, Davenport, Waterloo, Iowa City, Belmond, Norwalk, Jesup, and West Union. Plus \$30 million for a Disaster Prevention Program (see RIAC Goal #8) and \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention (see RIAC Goal #9.) (Signed 4/26/10)

### **RECOMMENDATION 5**

***The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.***

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) provides more flexibility on dates that a bond issue vote may be scheduled in disaster-impacted communities. (Signed 4/29/10)
- [SF2310](#) (Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund) outlines implementation of a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution. (Signed 4/23/10)

### **RECOMMENDATION 6**

***The state must invest in local emergency management agencies to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.***

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010

## **RECOMMENDATION 7**

***The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.***

- [SF 2380](#) (Tax Credit Changes) retains the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program but reduces its cap from \$50M to \$45M beginning 7/1/12. (Signed 4/15/10)
- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$12M for Community Attraction and Tourism grant funding and \$4M for River Enhancement Community Attraction grant funding, plus funding for Main Street projects (Signed 4/26/10)

## **RECOMMENDATION 8**

***The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.***

- [SF 2389](#) (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning. Planning-related sections of the bill are [excerpted here](#). (Signed 4/26/10)  
Ten Smart Planning Principles:
  1. Collaboration. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions.
  2. Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency. Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions.
  3. Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy. Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency.
  4. Occupational Diversity. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities.
  5. Revitalization. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
  6. Housing Diversity. Expand Housing Opportunities & Choices.
  7. Community Character. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place.
  8. Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands.
  9. Sustainable Design. Green Building & Infrastructure Design.
  10. Transportation Diversity. Variety of Transportation Choices.
- Comprehensive Planning Guidance for cities and counties
- Smart Planning Task Force to develop statewide planning goals, evaluate and develop incentives for comprehensive planning, develop a model for regional comprehensive planning, and develop recommendations for state comprehensive planning programs
- \$30 Million Disaster Prevention Program created with IJOBS funding, eligibility contingent on following Smart Planning.

## **RECOMMENDATION 9**

***The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.***

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) generated 16 policy recommendations
- [SF2316](#) addressed 12 policy recommendations and passed the Senate but **did not pass** the House Committee

Just 5 policy recommendations PASSED in other bills:

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) requires the WRCC and others *to extent feasible* to: **1)** work on establishing an Iowa chapter of State Floodplain Managers Association, **2)** education and **3)** marketing for flood risks and floodplain awareness. (Signed 4/29/10)
- [HF2459](#) (Watershed Bill) **4)** authorizes that funding be sought for pilot watershed projects involving IDALS, DNR and the Iowa Flood Center, and **5)** outlines potential watershed governance via Watershed Management Authorities (Signed 4/7/10)

Policy recommendations included in [SF2316](#) but NOT PASSED in 2010:

- Regulate the .2% (500-year) floodplain (or a model ordinance)
- Establish stormwater standards (or best practices)
- Enhance safety for critical facilities (require continued operation or safe cessation during 500-year flood event)
- Hydrological tiling study
- WRCC to make watershed governance recommendations by 11/15/10
- Integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds
- Update conservation practice criteria to reflect changing precipitation

Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) made 9 funding recommendations

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention. (Signed 4/26/10)

## **RECOMMENDATION 10**

***The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology, implementing the mapping process as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.***

- DNR continues to coordinate this effort through CDBG funding
- The Iowa Flood Center will continue to play a major role with a specific allocation of existing CDBG funds in [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill). (Signed 4/26/10)

**RECOMMENDATION 11**

***The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.***

- [SF2367](#) appropriates \$647,014 to support RIO during FY11 (Signed 4/29/10)
  - 12 FTEs were maintained
  - Additional RIO funding is provided through federal sources

**RECOMMENDATION 12**

***All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.***

- A big “thank you” to members of the [Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council](#) for their important role in addressing this recommendation!